

A REACTION MODEL  
FOR THE HOT  
CARBONATE SWEETENING  
PROCESS

By

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## NOMENCLATURE

C	solution concentration, equivalent $K_2CO_3$ , wt. fraction.
F	extent of conversion of $K_2CO_3$ , fraction.
$F_B$	weight fraction bicarbonate, g. per 1 g. solution.
$F_C$	weight fraction carbonate, g. per 1 g. solution.
$F_W$	weight fraction water, g. per 1 g. solution
$H_{CO_2}$	"pseudo-Henry's Law" constant for $CO_2$ , mm Hg/(gmole/lit)
$H_{H_2S}$	"pseudo-Henry's Law" constant For $H_2S$ , mm Hg/(gmole/lit)
$K_i$	equilibrium constants in the ionic equations, gmions/lit.
M	solution concentration, gmoles $K_2CO_3$ /lit. soln.
$P_{CO_2}$	equilibrium partial pressure of $CO_2$ , mm Hg.
$P_{H_2S}$	equilibrium partial pressure of $H_2S$ , mm Hg.
T	temperature, °R
$V_X$	volume of solution, lit.
$W_B$	moles of bicarbonate, gmoles per 1000g. $H_2O$ .
$W_C$	moles of carbonate, gmoles per 1000 g. $H_2O$ .
$W_S$	moles of bisulfide, gmoles per 1000 g. $H_2O$ .
$[CO_2]$	free $CO_2$ concentration in solution, gmoles/lit.
$[CO_3^{=}]$	carbonate ion concentration, gmoles/lit.
$[HCO_3^-]$	bicarbonate ion concentration, gmoles/lit.
$[HS^-]$	bisulfide ion concentration, gmoles/lit.
$[H_2S]$	free $H_2S$ concentration in solution, gmoles/lit.
$MW_i$	molecular weight of compound i.
$\alpha$	equivalent $CO_2$ loading in solution, gmoles $CO_2$ /gmole $K_2CO_3$ .

$\beta$  equivalent  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  loading in solution, gmoles  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ /gmole  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ .

$\rho_s$  solution density, g/lit.

N.B. subscript 'a' refers to the  $\text{CO}_2/\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  system.

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## INTRODUCTION

The removal of carbon dioxide from mixtures of gases by liquid absorbents is an important industrial process. Among the many large applications (7, 12) are the following:

- i) Sweetening of natural gas (produced from a condensate field or as associated gas from an oil reservoir) which usually contains water vapor and frequently hydrogen sulfide and/or carbon dioxide,
- ii) Purification of ammonia synthesis gas,
- iii) Upgrading of fuel gases manufactured from gasification of coal or reforming of petroleum fractions.

A few of the other applications include:

- i) Manufacture of methanol and synthetic gasolines,
- ii) Manufacture of solid carbon dioxide (dry ice),
- iii) Manufacture of carbon dioxide for industrial organic chemicals, etc.

The most common means of removal is by absorption into solution with which carbon dioxide reacts, usually aqueous amine or carbonate solutions. Potassium, rather than sodium carbonate is invariably used when aqueous carbonate solutions are used to remove carbon dioxide. This is because of the higher solubility of the potassium carbonate (7). Perhaps the main reasons (2) in favor of the hot potassium carbonate processes are the favorable costs and availability of the absorbents when bulk removal is desired.

In specific applications, hydrogen sulfide is often an impurity which must be removed (such as in gasification of coal to produce synthesis gas). Tests (4) made with feed gases containing hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide showed that a high degree of absorption of both gases could be achieved in hot potassium carbonate solutions.

Many experimental determinations have been done on the equilibrium of carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide and hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide mixtures over potassium carbonate solutions (17, 18).

The purpose of this work is to present an approach for correlating the published data which results in a model that can be used to extrapolate outside the range of existing data with reasonable accuracy.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature survey was undertaken for two main reasons:

- i) to see if a 'reaction model' approach as that for amines had been undertaken for the potassium carbonate system and,
- ii) to check for availability of data for model development.

The review indicated that a lot of work had been done in correlating vapor-liquid equilibria data for absorption of acidic gases in amines.

McNeil and Dankwerts (6) proposed a model in which the vapor pressure of the acid gas species was related to the free acid gas concentration in the liquid phase by a Henry's Law relationship, and the free acid gas concentration was determined by liquid phase ionic equilibria.

Kent and Eisenberg (10) found substantial deviations in predicted equilibrium values and thus modified the McNeil-Dankwerts approach by forcing the amine equilibrium constants to fit published data for the hydrogen-sulfide/amine and carbon-dioxide/amine systems. Thus, they developed a model capable of predicting equilibrium for the hydrogen-sulfide/carbon-dioxide/amine systems.

Vaz, Mains and Maddox (20) improved upon the Kent-Eisenberg approach and developed the Amine Process Model (APM) which not only predicted equilibrium with better accuracy but incorporated other features as well.

Akashah (1) extended the above "reaction model" concept to predict equilibrium for the carbon-dioxide/potassium-carbonate systems for the first time using equilibrium data published by the US Bureau of Mines (17, 18) (Tosh, Field, Benson, and Hayes). However, the predicted equilibrium values were found to deviate from experimental values.



The present work is a modified extension of Akashah's work and it follows the amine-process approach closely. Besides predicting the carbon-dioxide/potassium carbonate system with better accuracy it is extended to predict the carbon-dioxide/hydrogen-sulfide/potassium-carbonate (mixture) system too.

## THE REACTION MODEL

### CONCEPT

The Bureau of Mines (17, 18) conducted an experimental study of the  $K_2CO_3$ - $KHCO_3$  -  $CO_2$  -  $H_2O$  and the  $K_2CO_3$  -  $KHCO_3$  -  $KHS$ - $CO_2$  -  $H_2S$  -  $H_2O$  systems with solutions of varying equivalent potassium carbonate concentrations.

Their attempt to correlate the equilibrium data comprised of defining empirical constants, relating the equilibrium concentrations of the carbonate, bicarbonate and bisulfide and the partial pressures of carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

These so called constants were reported to be functions of temperature and concentration; a conclusion which held good only for low concentrations. The constants seemed to vary with the extent of conversion for higher concentrations of the solution. Besides averaged values of the constants were used for data correlation. All in all, the correlation bordered on pure empiricism.

Since carbonate solutions react chemically with hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide, their removing these acid gases from natural gas streams is not simple "absorption in liquid solutions". Equilibrium data indicate that there is an interactive relationship between the quantity of carbonate reacted and the relative amounts of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide present. The concept of the "reaction equilibria model" stems precisely from the above fact.

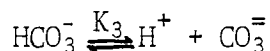
A set of independent reactions occurring in the liquid phase with the acid gas constituents is postulated and the partial pressure of the acid gas species is related to the free acid gas concentration in the liquid

phase by a Henry's Law type relationship. The use of the "actual" Henry's Law constant for the concentrations involved would at best be unconventional; hence the approach is to force "pseudo-Henry's constants" to fit the published vapor pressure data for the two systems. This approach is analogous to forcing the amine equilibrium constants to fit data in the amine-processes.

The two systems are discussed next.

#### A. The CO<sub>2</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> System

Equations describing the CO<sub>2</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> system are as follows:



$$P_{\text{CO}_2} = H_{\text{CO}_2} [\text{CO}_2]$$

Equations (1) through (3) represent the ionic dissociation reactions for CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. Equation (4) relates the equilibrium partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> to the free concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in solution by the Henry's Law type relationship (using a "pseudo-Henry's Law constant").

The equilibrium constants were accepted from the literature (values shown in Table 1) and algebraic manipulations (details of which are shown in Appendix A.1) were carried out on the above equations to work out the concentration of free CO<sub>2</sub>. The "pseudo-Henry's Law constant" was then determined by forcing a fit with the published data. Complete ionization of the solution was assumed.

The "constant", H<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub>, was found to be a function of temperature and concentration of solution for the CO<sub>2</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (pure) system.

TABLE 1

Equilibrium constants for the ionic reactions. (References (9) and (10))

$$K_i = \exp [ A + B/T + C/T^2 + D/T^3 + E/T^4 ]$$

with T in °R

<u>Equilibrium constant</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>BX10<sup>-4</sup></u>	<u>CX10<sup>-8</sup></u>	<u>DX10<sup>-11</sup></u>	<u>EX10<sup>-13</sup></u>
K <sub>1</sub> ...	gmions/lit.	-241.818	53.6855	-4.8123	1.94	-2.96445
K <sub>2</sub> ...	(gmions/lit.) <sup>2</sup>	39.5554	-17.7822	1.843	-0.8541	1.4292
K <sub>3</sub> ...	gmions/lit.	-294.74	65.5893	-5.9667	2.4249	-3.7192
K <sub>4</sub> ...	gmions/lit.	-304.689	69.6979	-6.31007	2.5551	-3.91757

The "constant" determined is as follow:

$$H_{CO_2} = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{C \cdot 0.01} \left[ X_1 + \frac{X_2}{T} + \frac{X_3}{T^2} + \frac{X_4}{T^3} \right] \right\}$$

where  $X_1 = 684.69471$

$$X_2 = -13.58785 \times 10^5$$

$$X_3 = 91.72634 \times 10^7$$

$$X_4 = -20.68227 \times 10^{10}$$

C is the concentration of solution, wt. fraction.

T is the temperature, °R.

$H_{CO_2}$  is the "pseudo-Henry's Law constant", mm Hg/(gmole/lit.soln.)

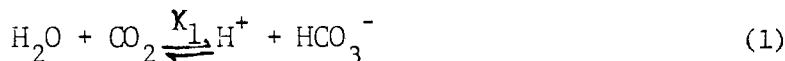
This result covers a temperature range from 70°C and a solution concentration range from 20% to 40% equivalent  $K_2CO_3$ .

Typical fits of the data obtained using this approach for the  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system are shown in Figures (1), (2) and (3). Loadings,  $\alpha$ , given are for total equivalent  $CO_2$  in solution. Table (2) shows a summary of errors in predicting  $P_{CO_2}$  for the  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  systems.

The  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  served as a "starter" for the more general  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system.

### B. The $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$ System

Equations describing the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system are as follow:



$$P_{CO_2} = H_{CO_2} [ CO_2 ] \quad (5)$$

$$P_{H_2S} = H_{H_2S} [ H_2S ] \quad (6)$$

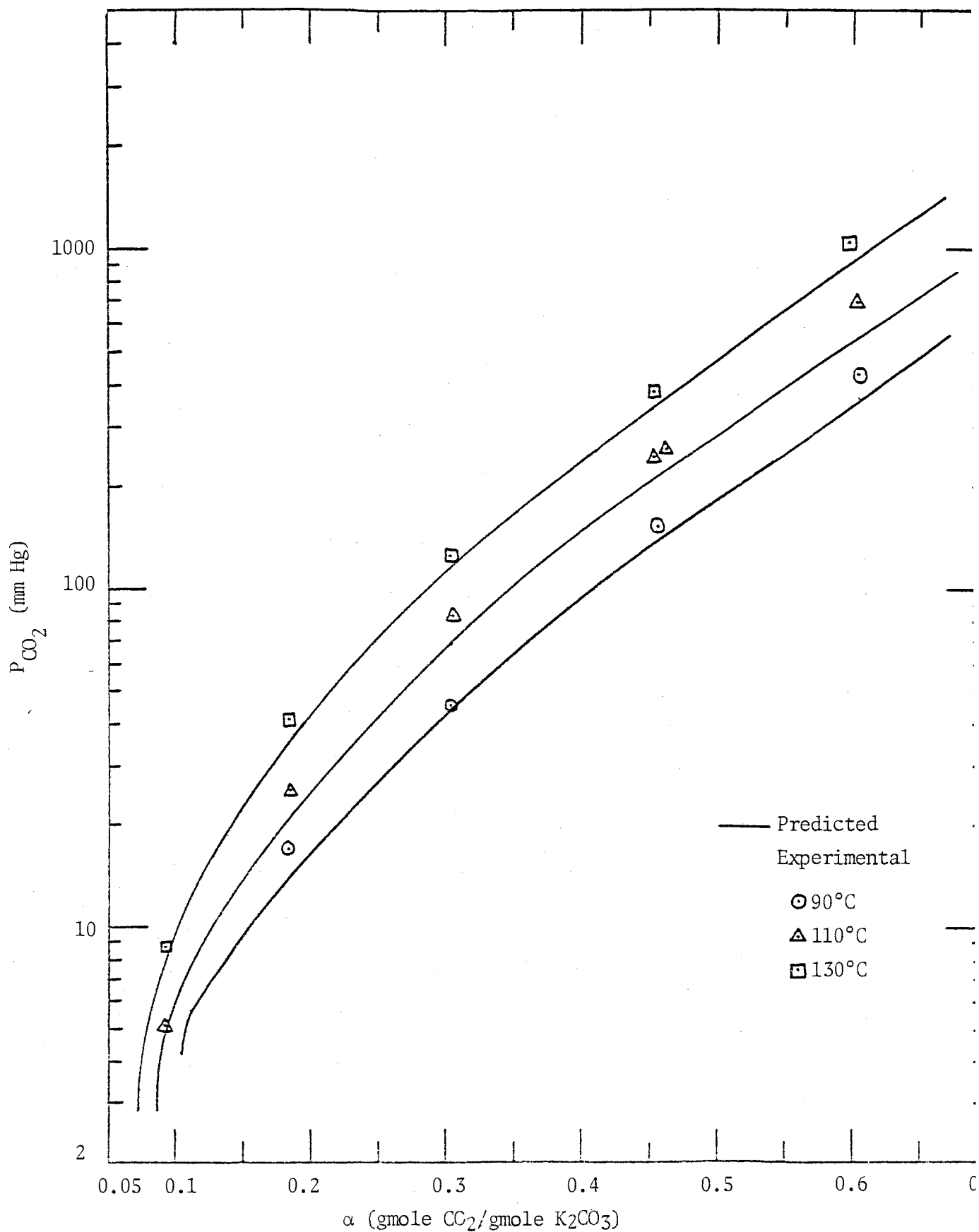


Fig.1: Partial Pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> over 20% equiv. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.

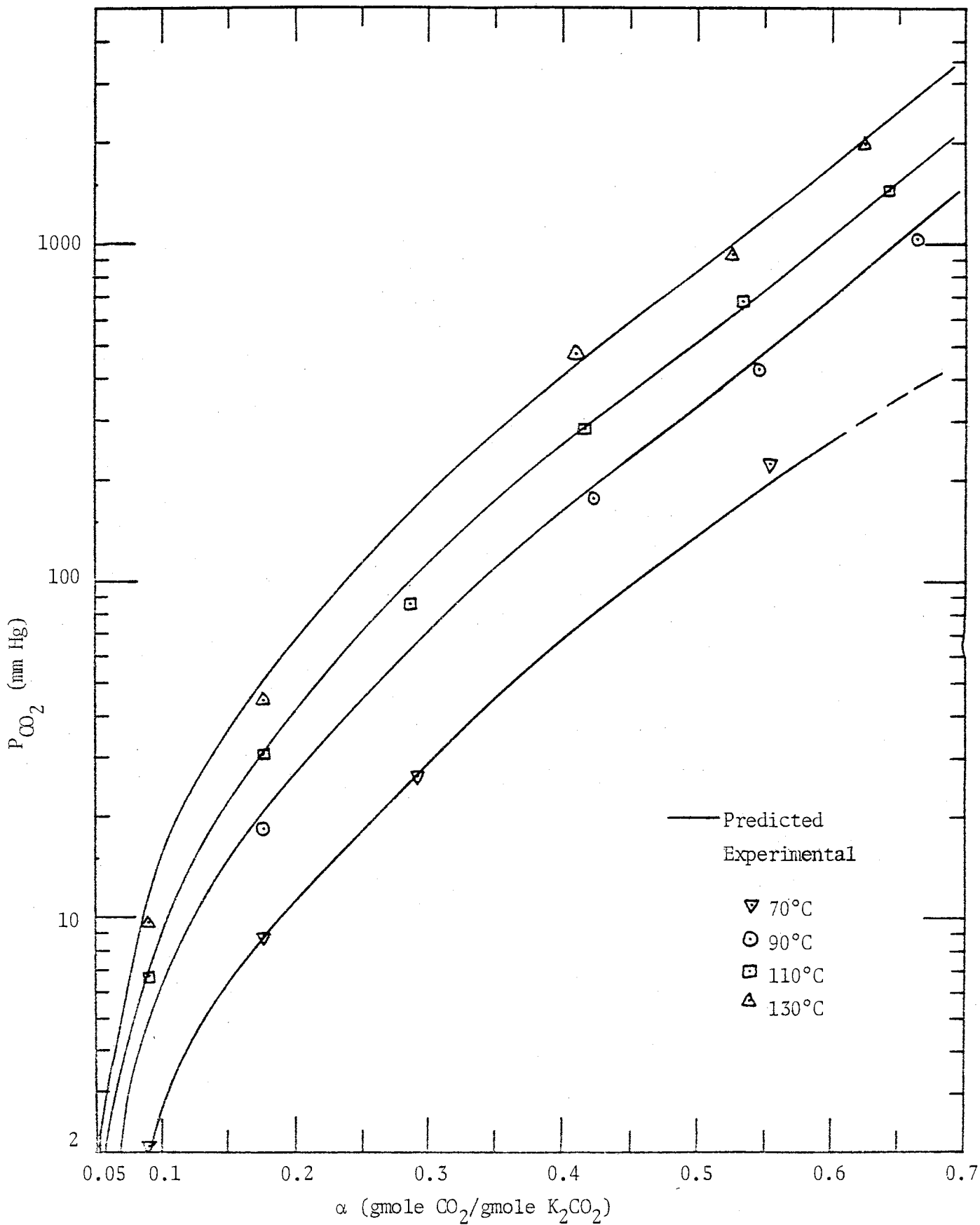


Fig.2: Partial Pressures of  $CO_2$  over 30% equiv.  $K_2CO_3$

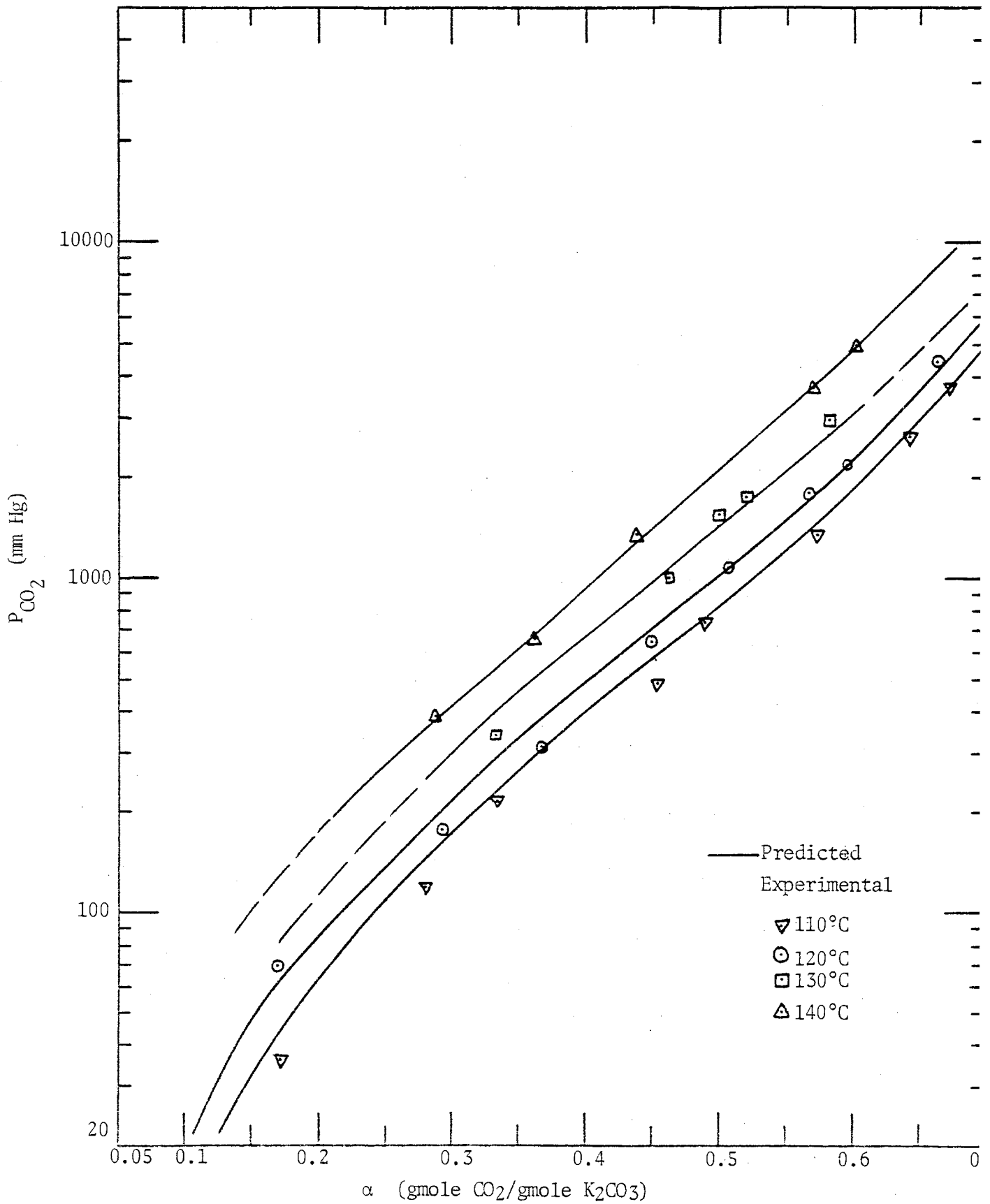


Fig.3: Partial Pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> over 40% equiv. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.



TABLE 2

Summary of Errors in predicting  $P_{CO_2}$  for the  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system.

1.	Total number of observations. . . . .	65
2.	Temperature range. . . . .	.70°C to 140°C
3.	Concentration range . . . . .	.20 to 40% eq. $K_2CO_3$
4.	Conversion range. . . . .	.10 to 70%
5.	Maximum -ve error . . . . .	.23.3%
6.	Maximum +ve error . . . . .	.29.2%
7.	Average absolute error. . . . .	.10.2%

Note: a) Percent error =  $\frac{(\text{Predicted value} - \text{Expt. value})}{\text{Expt. value}} 100$

b)  $P_{CO_2}$  predicted in mm Hg.

Once again equations (1) through (4) represent the ionic dissociation reactions for CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and H<sub>2</sub>S and equations (5) and (6) relate the equilibrium partial pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S to the free concentrations of the two species in solution, by the Henry's Law type relationship (again, using a "pseudo - Henry's Law constant" for each)

As before, the equilibrium constants were accepted from literature (shown in Table 1) and algebraic manipulations (details of which are relegated to Appendix A.2) were carried out on the above equations to work out the free acid species concentrations. "Pseudo - Henry's Law constants" were then determined for each species by forcing a fit with the published data - ionization was assumed here, also.

For this "mixture" system, H<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub>, was found to be a function of temperature and concentration.

A fit for H<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> using the H<sub>2</sub>S/CO<sub>2</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> system vapor pressure data yielded the following equation:

$$H_{CO_2} = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{C^{0.01}} \left[ X_1 + \frac{X_2}{T} + \frac{X_3}{T^2} + \frac{X_4}{T^3} \right] \right\} \quad (I)$$

where: X<sub>1</sub> = 207.08040

X<sub>2</sub> = -37.35059 X 10<sup>4</sup>

X<sub>3</sub> = 24.21064 X 10<sup>7</sup>

X<sub>4</sub> = -53.0998 X 10<sup>9</sup>

C is the concentration of solution, wt. fraction

T is the temperature, °R

H<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> is the "pseudo constant", mmHg / (gmoles/lit.soln.)

A fit for  $H_{H_2S}$  had to be carried out next. Analysis of the data indicated that  $H_{H_2S}$  had to be, logically, a function of temperature and solution concentration.

A fit using the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system vapor pressure data resulted in the following equation:

$$H_{H_2S} = \exp \left\{ X_1 + \frac{X_2}{C^{0.2T}} + \frac{X_3}{C^{0.2T^2}} \right\} \quad (II)$$

where  $X_1 = 14.07121$

$X_2 = 939.10254$

$X_3 = -12.53656 \times 10^5$

C is the concentration of  
solution, wt. fraction

T is the temperature, °R

$H_{H_2S}$  is the "pseudo constant,"  
mm Hg/(gmole/lit.soln.)

The above results cover a temperature range from 70°C to 130°C, a solution concentration range from 30% to 40% equivalent  $K_2CO_3$  and total  $H_2S$  loadings greater than about 250-300 grains  $H_2S$  per gallon of solution.

Typical fits of the data are shown in Figures (4) through (7). Table (3) shows a summary of errors in predicting  $P_{CO_2}$  and  $P_{H_2S}$  for the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system.

The two "constants,"  $H_{CO_2}$  and  $H_{H_2S}$ , as determined above apply to the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system only.

The particular type of dependence of the "pseudo - constants" on temperature and solution concentration can be explained with the help of thermodynamic derivations.

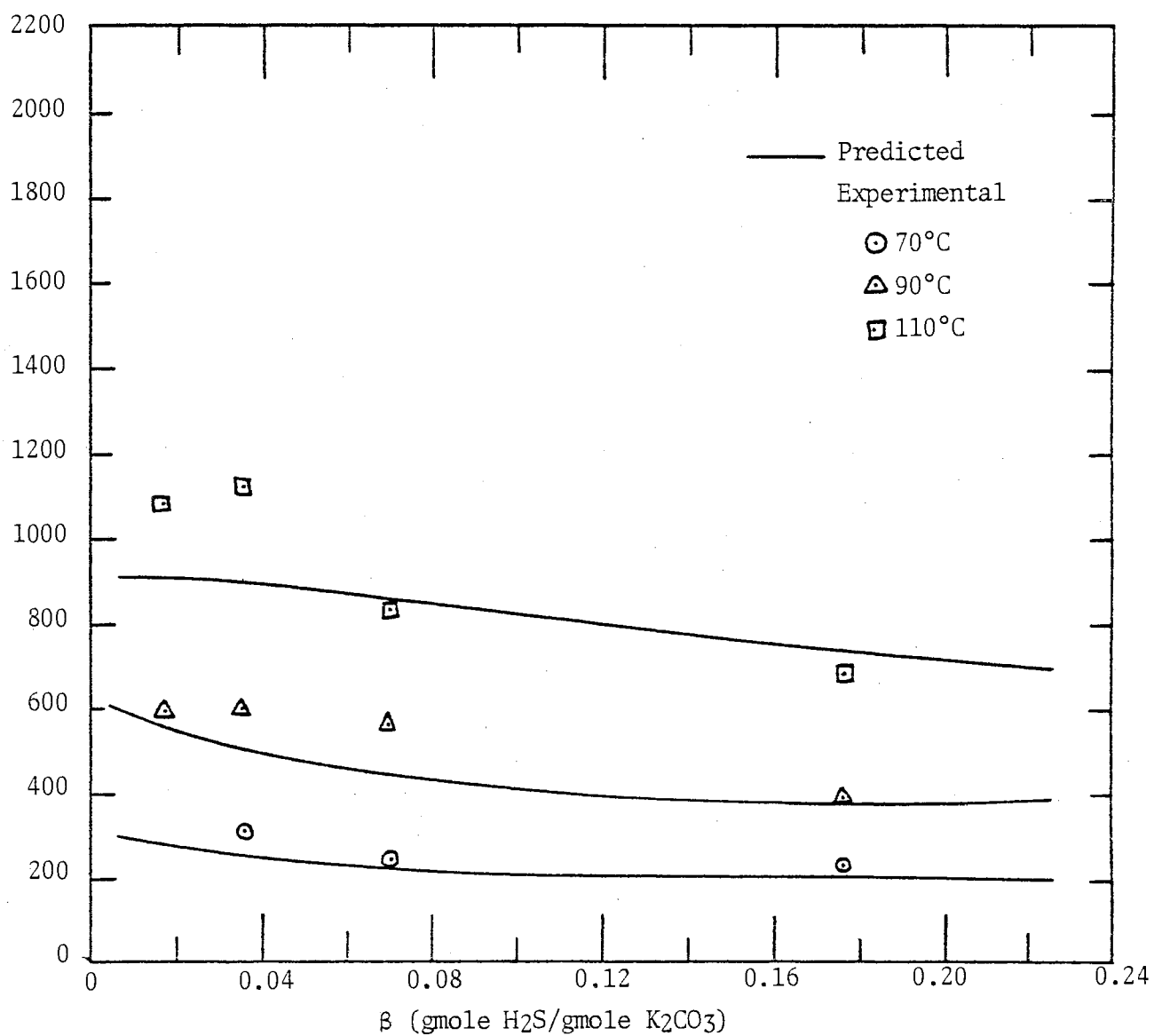


Fig.4: Partial Pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> over 30% equiv. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.  
with total loading,  $(\alpha + \beta)$ ,  $\approx 0.56$  gmole/gmole K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.

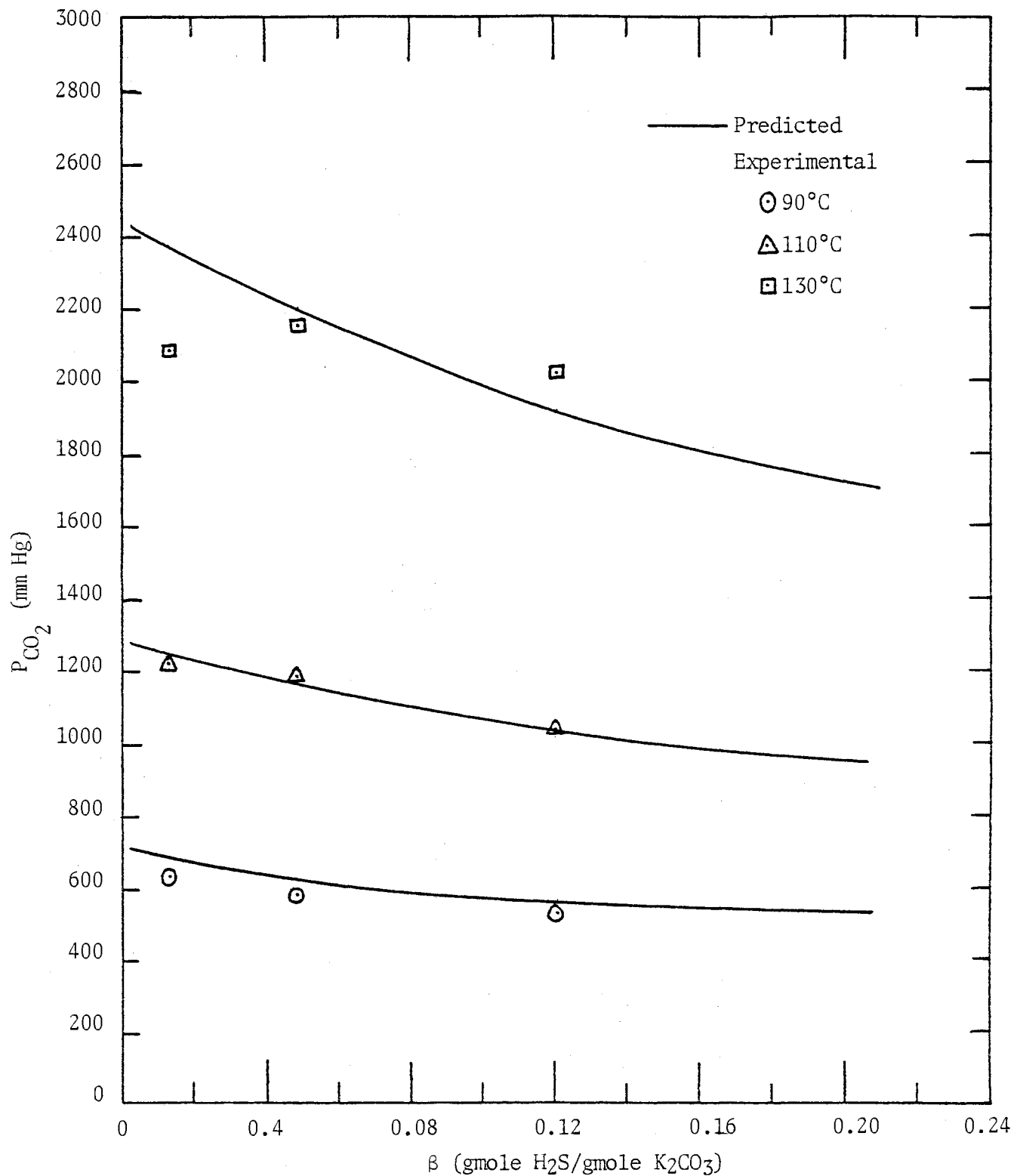


Fig.5: Partial pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> over 40% equiv. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.  
with total loading, (α + β), ≈ 0.56 gmole/gmole K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

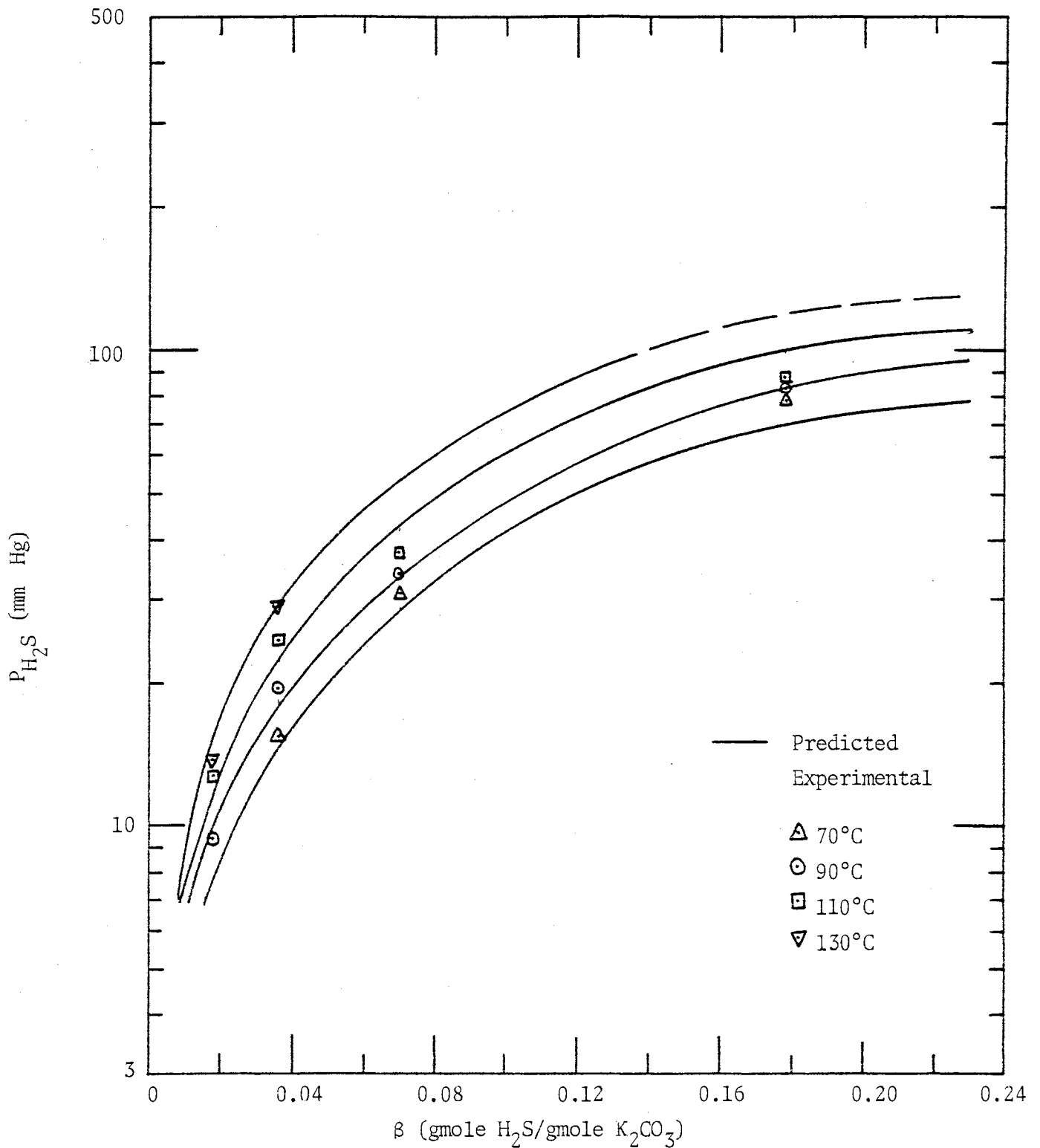


Fig. 6: Partial pressures of  $H_2S$  over 30% equiv.  $K_2CO_3$  with total loading,  $(\alpha + \beta)$ ,  $\approx 0.56$  gmole/gmole  $K_2CO_3$ .

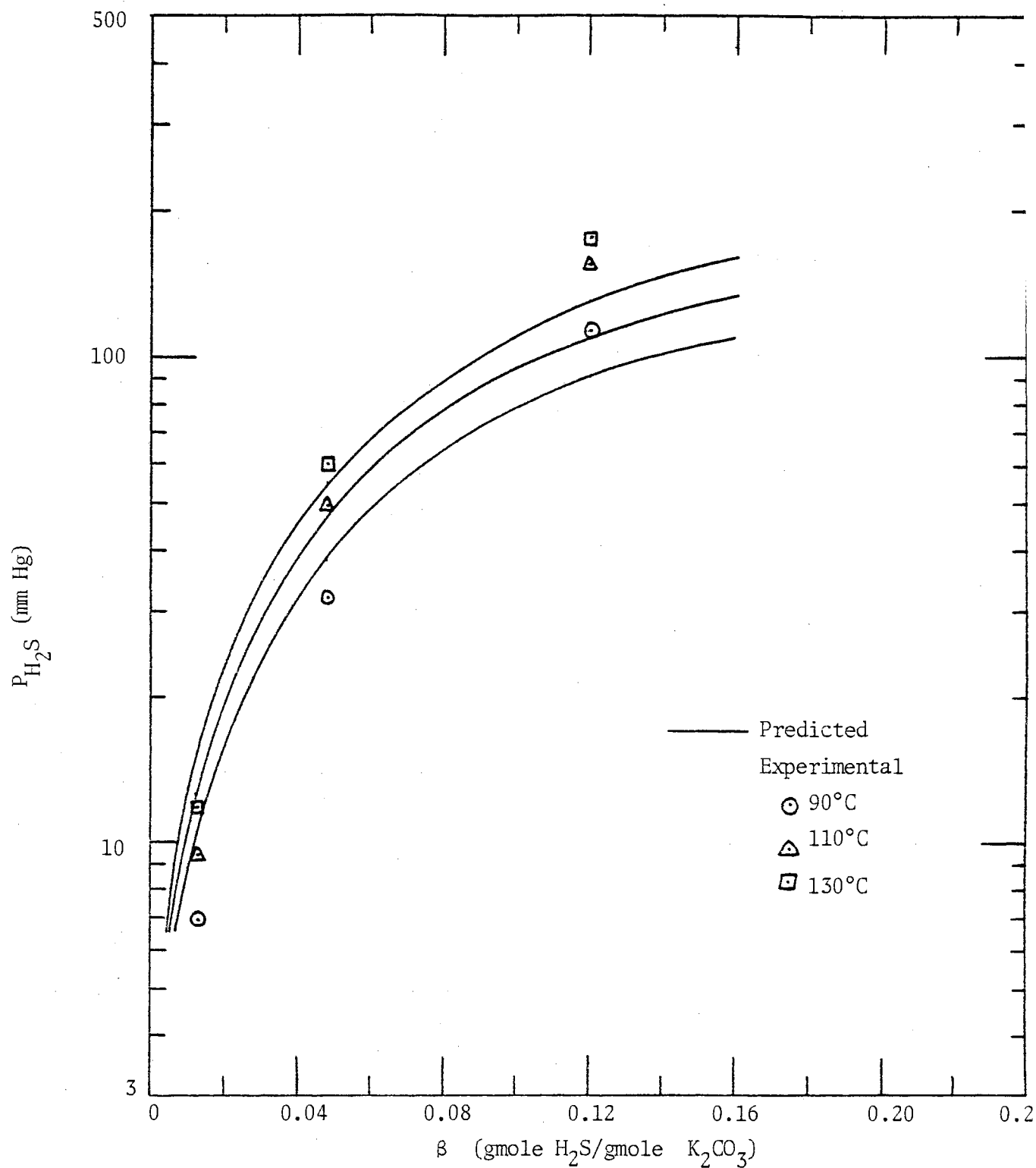


Fig. 7: Partial pressures of  $H_2S$  over 40% equiv.  $K_2CO_3$  with total loading,  $(\alpha + \beta)$ ,  $\approx 0.56$  gmole/gmole  $K_2CO_3$

TABLE 3

Summary of Errors in predicting

$P_{CO_2}$  and  $P_{H_2S}$  for the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system.

1.	Total number of observations . . . . .	.30
2.	Temperature range . . . . .	70°C to 130°C
3.	Concentration range . . . . .	.30% to 40% eq. $K_2CO_3$
4.	For $P_{CO_2}$ :	
	a) Maximum -ve error . . . . .	21.4%
	b) Maximum +ve error . . . . .	2.98%
	c) Average absolute error . . . . .	12.8%
5.	For $P_{H_2S}$	
	a) Maximum -ve error . . . . .	30.2%
	b) Maximum +ve error . . . . .	50.4%
	c) Average absolute error . . . . .	12.4%

Note: a) percent error =  $\frac{(\text{Predicted value} - \text{Expt. value})}{\text{Expt. Value}} \times 100$

b)  $P_{CO_2}$  and  $P_{H_2S}$  predicted in mm Hg.



Take the  $\text{CO}_2/\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  system.  $\text{H}_{\text{CO}_2}$  was computed from (App.A.2)

$$\text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} = \frac{K_1}{K_3} \frac{[\text{CO}_3^{=}]}{[\text{HCO}_3^-]^2} P_{\text{CO}_2} \quad (1)$$

The temperature dependence of  $\text{H}_{\text{CO}_2}$  would then be due to the temperature dependence of the terms on the right-hand side of the equation. Equation (1) can be rewritten as

$$\ln \text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} = \ln K_1 - \ln K_3 + \ln P_{\text{CO}_2} + \ln C_1 \quad (2)$$

where  $C_1$  incorporates the  $[\text{CO}_3^{=}]$  and  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  values. For a qualitative understanding, assume  $C_1$  to be independent of temperature (which amounts to neglecting the temperature dependence of the activity coefficients of  $\text{CO}_3^{=}$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , a simplifying assumption) and say  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  can be approximated by a Antoine type equation of the type

$$P_{\text{CO}_2} = \frac{C_2}{T} \quad (3)$$

then differentiation of equation (2) w.r.t.  $T$  gives

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln \text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} = \frac{d}{dt} \ln K_1 - \frac{d}{dt} \ln K_3 - \frac{C_2}{T^2} \quad (4)$$

The van't Hoff equation relates the equilibrium constant to the heat of reaction at constant pressure by

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln K_i = \frac{\Delta H_i^\circ}{RT^2} \quad (5)$$

Hence equation (4) can be written as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln \text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} = (\Delta H_1^\circ - \Delta H_2^\circ) \frac{1}{RT^2} - \frac{C_2}{T^2} \quad (6)$$

or

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln \text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} = \frac{\Delta H_t^\circ}{RT^2} - \frac{C_2}{T^2}$$

$$\text{where } \Delta H_t^\circ = \Delta H_1^\circ - \Delta H_2^\circ$$

$\Delta H_t^\circ$  in turn is related to the specific heat at constant pressure as

$$\Delta H_t^\circ = \Delta H_{0,t}^\circ + \int \Delta C_{p_t} dT \quad (8)$$

and  $\Delta C_{p_t}$  then (for inorganic salts) is of the type

$$\Delta C_{p_t} = \Delta a + \frac{\Delta b}{T} + \frac{\Delta c}{T^2} \text{ etc} \quad (9)$$

Hence equations (7) through (9) give

$$\frac{d \ln H_{CO_2}}{dt} = \frac{\Delta H_{0,t}^\circ}{RT^2} + \left( \Delta a + \frac{\Delta b}{T} + \frac{\Delta c}{T^2} \right) \frac{1}{RT^2} dt - \frac{C}{T^2} \quad (10)$$

integration of which can be approximated as

$$\ln H_{CO_2} = \frac{-\Delta H_{0,t}^\circ}{R} - \frac{\Delta a^1}{RT} - \frac{\Delta b^1}{RT^2} - \frac{\Delta c^1}{RT^3} + \frac{C_2}{T} \quad (11)$$

or

$$\ln H_{CO_2} = a^1 + \frac{b^1}{T} + \frac{c^1}{T^2} + \frac{d^1}{T^3} \quad (12)$$

which is the type of temperature dependence depicted by the fitted expression for  $\ln H_{CO_2}$ .

The dependence of  $H_{CO_2}$  on the solution concentration can be explained in terms of the Debye - Hückel theory. A qualitative explanation using the simplified Debye - Hückel equation will be given.

The concentration dependence of  $H_{CO_2}$  comes purely from the concentration dependence of the activity coefficients of the  $CO_3^{=}$  and  $HCO_3^-$  ions.

The Debye - Huckel equation for single ions gives

$$\ln \gamma_i = A Z^2 \sqrt{I} \quad (13)$$

where  $A = \text{constant}$

$Z = \text{charge on ion}$

$I = \text{total ionic strength of solution}$

Equation (13) written for each of the  $\text{CO}_3^{=}$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ions gives

$$\ln \gamma_{\text{CO}_3^{=}} = 4 A \sqrt{I} \quad (14)$$

and  $\ln \gamma_{\text{HCO}_3^-} = A \sqrt{I} \quad (15)$

Equations (14) and (15) can be combined to give

$$\frac{\gamma_{\text{CO}_3^{=}}}{\gamma_{\text{HCO}_3^-}^2} = e^{-2 \sqrt{I}} \quad (16)$$

The ionic strength of solution,  $I$ , is a function of the solution concentration,  $C$ , in the first place, hence equation (16) can be written as

$$\frac{\gamma_{\text{CO}_3^{=}}}{\gamma_{\text{HCO}_3^-}^2} = C_3 e^{-2 \sqrt{C}} \quad (17)$$

where  $C_3 =$  a constant

and  $\text{H}_{\text{CO}_2}$  is proportional to the activity coefficients of the two ions as

$$\text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} \propto \frac{\gamma_{\text{CO}_3^{=}}}{\gamma_{\text{HCO}_3^-}^2} \quad (18)$$

hence from equations (17) and (18) it can be shown that

$$\ln \text{H}_{\text{CO}_2} \propto \sqrt{C} \quad (19)$$

The above conclusion was reached using simplest form of the Debye-Hückel equations. A more general conclusion for the concentration levels being concentration levels being considered would necessitate using the more complex, extended Debye - Hückel equations. The derivations would then need quantities like the salting-out parameters, specific ion constants etc... which are not readily available for the present system. Hence even though the particular type of solution concentration dependence is obtained through regression of the

experimental data, it is evident that it does indeed have a theoretical foundation.

All fits were made using the General Linear Models Procedure (PROC GLM) of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) package. The goodness-of-fit was checked against the required criteria for PROC GLM and was found to be excellent in each case.

A sample listing of the computer program for the  $\text{CO}_2/\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  system is included in Appendix A.3.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The reaction model incorporating the fitted "constants",  $H_{CO_2}$  and  $H_{H_2S}$ , thus enable prediction of equilibrium partial pressure of  $CO_2$  and  $CO_2$  and  $H_2S$  for the  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  and  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  systems, respectively. This model development overcomes one of the drawbacks of non-availability of experimental data in a given temperature, concentration or loading range. Besides, it presents a tool that can initiate the development of a package for a detailed simulation/design of an absorption-desorption unit for the hot carbonate process (vis-a-vis, the APM).

A few points must be mentioned in regard to the preceding work and besides:

In the case of the amine model, two distinct groups of equations enabled the evaluation of amine equilibrium constants for two "pure" systems. These two were then combined to predict the general "mixture" system. The same approach was not possible for the carbonate model. This was because of the fact that no two distinct groups of equations existed for the process. The set of equations for an "only  $H_2S$ " system were exactly the same as those for a "mixture" system. Hence constants had to be fitted for the  $CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system and the "mixture"  $H_2S/CO_2 / K_2CO_3$  system separately.

The other point to be mentioned is in connection with the available data for the "mixture" system. Only three levels of conversion and concentration have been covered and there too the data tends to be erratic and suspect for the lower concentrations and loadings of  $H_2S$ . Substantial deviations from a possible trend is not explained. More "accurate" data would certainly be a big help in proper data correlation and model development.

Finally, suggestions (14) have been made for equilibrium studies for the  $\text{H}_2\text{S} / \text{CO}_2 / \text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  system wherein the  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution contains small amounts of chemical additives (like amine borates, etc...). These are essentially "catalysed" processes and all that would change would be the rates of the various reactions. Nevertheless, the above approach would most certainly predict equilibria for those systems, provided, of course, substantial vapor pressure data are available or are generated experimentally for such processes.

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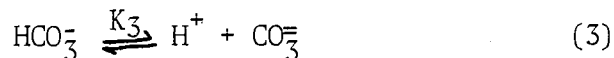
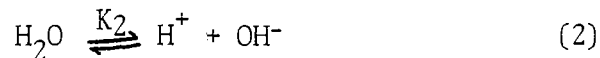


APPENDIX A.1

Equations for the  $\text{CO}_2/\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  system.

(nomenclature employed is as shown earlier)

Ionic - equilibria equations:



"Pseudo-Henry's Law" relation:

$$P_{\text{CO}_2} = H_{\text{CO}_2} [\text{CO}_2] \quad (4)$$

For 1 g. solution given F and C

$$F_{c,a} = (1-F) C \quad (5)$$

$$F_{B,a} = 2 F C \frac{\text{MW}_{\text{HCO}_3^-}}{\text{MW}_{\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3}} \quad (6)$$

$$F_{w,a} = \left[ \frac{(1-C)}{\text{MW}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} - \frac{FC}{\text{MW}_{\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3}} \right] \text{MW}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \quad (7)$$

$$V_{s,a} = \frac{1}{\rho_s} (F_{c,a} + F_{B,a} + F_{w,a}) \quad (8)$$

Hence,

$$[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_a = \frac{F_{c,a}}{\text{MW}_{\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3}} \frac{1}{V_{s,a}} \quad (9)$$

$$[\text{HCO}_3^-]_a = \frac{F_{B,a}}{\text{MW}_{\text{KHCO}_3}} \frac{1}{V_{s,a}} \quad (10)$$

Also, from equations (1), (3) and (4)

$$H_{\text{CO}_2,a} = \frac{K_1}{K_3} \frac{[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_a}{[\text{HCO}_3^-]_a^2} P_{\text{CO}_2,a} \quad (11)$$

Further:

$$M = \frac{\rho_s C}{MW_{K_2CO_3}} \quad (12)$$

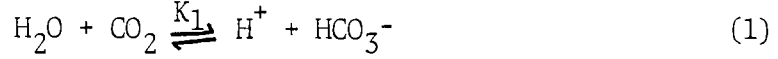
So, 
$$\alpha, a = \frac{1}{M} \{ [CO_3^{=}] + [HCO_3^{-}] + [CO_2] - M \} \quad (13)$$

APPENDIX A.2

Equations for the  $H_2S/CO_2/K_2CO_3$  system:

(nomenclature employed is as shown earlier)

Ionic equilibria equations:



"Pseudo-Henry's Law" relations:

$$P_{CO_2} = H_{CO_2} [CO_2] \quad (5)$$

$$P_{H_2S} = H_{H_2S} [H_2S] \quad (6)$$

For 1000g  $H_2O$ , given  $W_B$ ,  $W_C$  and  $W_S$

$$V_s = \frac{1}{\rho_s} [W_B \cdot NW_{KHCO_3} + W_C \cdot MW_{D_2CO_3} + W_S \cdot MW_{KHS} + 1000] \quad (7)$$

Hence,

$$[CO_3^{=}] = \frac{W_C}{V_s} \quad (8)$$

$$[HCO_3^-] = \frac{W_B}{V_s} \quad (9)$$

$$[HS^-] = \frac{W_S}{V_s} \quad (10)$$

Also from equations(1), (3) and (5)

$$H_{CO_2} = \frac{K_1}{K_3} \frac{[CO_3^{=}]}{[HCO_3^-]^2} P_{CO_2} \quad (11)$$

and from equations (3), (4) and (6)

$$H_{H_2S} = \frac{K_4}{K_3} \frac{[CO_3^{=}]}{[HS^-][HCO_3^-]} P_{H_2S} \quad (12)$$

Further,

$$M = \frac{\rho_s C}{\frac{MW}{K_2CO_3}} \quad (13)$$

So,

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{M} \{ [CO_3^{=}] + [HCO_3^-] + [CO_2] - M \} \quad (14)$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{M} \{ [HS^-] + [H_2S] \} \quad (15)$$

APPENDIX A.3

```

*****
*
*   S A S PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A CORRELATION FOR HCO2, THE
*   'PSEUDO-HENRY'S LAW CONSTANT' FOR THE CO2/K2CO3 SYSTEM.
*
*****
*
*   READ IN THE SOLUTION CONCENTRATIONS, (WT.FRACTION),
*   TEMPERATURE, (DEG C), CONVERSION, (WT.FRACTION) AND
*   THE PARTIAL PRESSURE OF CO2, (PSIA) AND STORE THESE
*   OBSERVATIONS IN A DATASET LABELED 'DATA PURECO2'.
*
* ;
DATA PURECO2;
INPUT C 1-10 T 11-20 F 21-30 CO2PSI 31-40;
PCO2=CO2PSI/14.696*760.0;
TR=(T+273.16)*1.8;
*
*
*   COMPUTE THE DENSITY OF THE SOLUTION FOR DIFFERENT
*   CONCENTRATIONS AND TEMPERATURES.
*
* ;
RHOS=1000.0*(1.03346+100.0*0.01096*C-0.000858*((TR/1.8)
-273.16));
*
*
*   COMPUTE THE VALUES OF THE IONIC-EQUILIBRIA CONSTANTS
*   FOR DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES. THESE CONSTANTS ARE TAKEN
*   FROM THE LITERATURE.
*
* ;
K1=EXP((-241.818)+(53.6855E+04/TR)-(4.8123E+08/TR**2)+(1.94E
+11/TR**3)-(2.96445E+13/TR**4));
K3=EXP((-294.74)+(65.5893E+04/TR)-(5.9667E+08/TR**2)+(2.4249E
+11/TR**3)-(3.7192E+13/TR**4));
*
*
*   COMPUTE THE CONCENTRATIONS OF THE VARIOUS IONS.
*
* ;
M=C*RHOS/138.20535;
CRB=(1.0-F)*C;
BICAR=F*C*2.0*100.11525/138.20535;
H2O=((1.0-C)/18.0152-(F*C/138.20535))*18.0152;
TOTG=CRB+BICAR+H2O;
VOL=TOTG/RHOS;
CCO3=CRB/138.20535/VOL;
CHCO3=BICAR/100.11525/VOL;
*
*
*   COMPUTE THE CONCENTRATION OF FREE CO2 IN SOLUTION
*   AND THUS COMPUTE THE 'PSEUDO-HENRY'S LAW CONSTANT'.
*
* ;

```

```

FRCO2=K3*CHCO3*CHCO3/(K1*CCO3);
HCO2=PCO2/FRCO2;
*
*
*   COMPUTE THE EQUIVALENT LOADING OF CO2 IN SOLUTION.
*
* ;
ALFA=(CCO3+CHCO3+FRCO2-M)/M;
* ;
KEEP C TR PCO2 FRCO2 HCO2 ALFA F T;
*
*
*   THE DATA DECK FOLLOWS AFTER 'CARDS'.
*
* ;
CARDS;
DATA TOTAL;
*
*
*   SET THE EQUATIONS FOR THE CORRELATION USING THE ABOVE
*   DATA AND CALL 'PROC GLM' TO DETERMINE THE COEFFICIENTS
*   IN THE EQUATION FOR HCO2
*
* ;
SET PURECO2;
Y1=LOG(HCO2);
X1=1/C**0.01;
X2=1/C**0.01/TR;
X3=1/C**0.01/TR**2;
X4=1/C**0.01/TR**3;
PROC GLM DATA=TOTAL;
MODEL Y1=X1 X2 X3 X4/NOINT;
*
*
*   USING THE ABOVE DETERMINED EQUATION FOR HCO2, PREDICT
*   THE PARTIAL PRESSURES OF CO2. ALSO COMPUTE THE PERCENT
*   ERROR BETWEEN PREDICTED AND EXPERIMENTAL VALUES OF THE
*   CO2 PARTIAL PRESSURES FOR EACH OBSERVATION AND THE
*   CUMULATIVE AVERAGE ABSOLUTE ERROR FOR THE PREDICTIONS.
*
* ;
OUTPUT OUT=NEW PREDICTED=PY1;
DATA PRED;
SET NEW;
PHCO2=EXP(PY1);
PPCO2=PHCO2*FRCO2;
PCTERR=ABS((PPCO2-PCO2)*100.0/PCO2);
SUMER+PCTERR;
N+1;
AVERR=SUMER/N;
*
*
*   PRINT OUT THE RESULTS FOR EACH OBSERVATION BY
*   CALLING 'PROC PRINT'.
*
* ;
PROC PRINT DATA=PRED;
VAR C T ALFA PCO2 PPCO2 PCTERR AVERR;
*
*
*   END OF PROGRAM
* ;

```